Research Project

DESCRIPTION: This project is designed to grow out of the “Wide Read” that we did together this semester. The goal is to choose a writing-related issue focused on any of the articles we have discussed that you want to continue to work with. Early on, you will need to develop a **research question** that you feel personally invested in and curious about, and that you want to read more about and attempt to answer. You must consider your own "stake" and moves you want to make to forward and/or counter your claim or position so that you are adding to the discourse that is happening.

In other words, take a concept, idea, or point that is explored in any of the “Wide Read” articles and do something more with it that involves finding and coming to terms with new research and provokes new perspectives, understandings and responses on your part. Your paper will report your research results, place the findings in the context of the discourse, and include your own experience.

STAGE 1: Wide Read – During weeks 8-10 of the semester, we will be reading a number of scholarly articles in the field of Writing Studies. You will be responsible for reading all of the assigned articles, submitting CTT worksheets for each one, completing the “5-Minute Writes” in-class discussion posts, as well as group leadership of class discussions.

STAGE 2: Noodle Tools – In week 10 of the semester, we will be conducting an in-class workshop on using Noodle Tools research project software and the Academic Search Elite database for locating scholarly articles for your paper. Noodle Tools is required for compiling and formatting your annotations and your MLA Works Cited page.

STAGE 3: Annotations – During week 11 of the semester, we will be working on your annotations. They will be on three articles which will be entered into NoodleTools which will format and arrange them alphabetically. You will then need to export them into a Word document before submitting them to the Annotations Dropbox in MyCourses. **They will be a minimum of at least one page each** and will include:

* Three Academic Search Elite articles--annotated (summary and also how you think you may use them in your essay).
* Or, two Academic Search Elite articles and one article we read in class --annotated (summary and also how you think you may use them in your essay).
* Or, one Academic Search Elite article and two of your interviews annotated (summary and also how you think you may use them in your essay).

STAGE 4: Prezi – During weeks 12-14 of the semester you will ***visually*** come to terms in a Prezi presentation with the best source you have located in your research process. You will need to give a clear sense of your topic/research question, authorize your source, explain your stake in the topic, and quote sentences or passages that you can imagine forwarding or countering. You must include a bibliographical citation for your source.

STAGE 5: First Draft – Drawing from your Prezi and your annotations, compose a draft in which you pose a research question, present a provocative idea, offer the preliminary findings and discussion of your project, etc. Required minimum length of first draft: **1700 words.** (To ensure proper MLA formatting, download the "myMLA Form" and do a "Save As" for your draft.) **Due to the “First Draft Research” dropbox in MyCourses by** **Monday of week 13**.

STAGE 6: One-on-One Conferences – During weeks 14-15 of the semester, each of you will be meeting with me individually in my office (COLA/Building 06-A116). To prepare for the meeting, you will need to read my feedback on the first draft of your research project. Come prepared to discuss specific sections or moves in your draft that you are thinking/writing about. Have specific questions you want to ask me. YOU make the agenda for this meeting.

STAGE 7: Second Draft for Peer Response – Based on my feedback on your first draft and in our one-on-one conference, you will significantly revise your draft, refining the specific moves that you are making to reach your intended audience. On our workshop day, you will actively read and respond to your peers’ drafts. You will then write down your experience of reading each partner’s draft, presenting your response to the essay and offering your suggestions for revisions that will improve it. Your peers’ responses will help you identify those areas of your writing that need development, clarification, elaboration, or stylistic reconsideration. **Due by last class**.

STAGE 8 A: Cover Letter –This will introduce your reader to the material being submitted in your portfolio by reflecting on and discussing the process you have gone through to produce the final draft of your research project. It must include your assessment of what works and what doesn’t in your own writing, as well as your reaction to any responses you received from your classmates, your instructor or the Writing Commons about your writing. (Refer to the separate “Portfolio Cover Letter” handout.) **Due as part of your final portfolio**.

STAGE 8 B: Final Draft/Portfolio – On the last class of the semester, you will complete one last revision of your project to be submitted in a **portfolio** as a portion of your final grade. This final draft should incorporate your peers’ and anyone else’s relevant feedback. The final portfolio will include your cover letter, the final draft, any rough drafts, and visualization techniques you have done. **Required minimum length of final draft**: **2200 words.** You must submit your completed portfolio in **a single digital file** into the “Research Portfolio” dropbox in MyCourses by **Sunday, December 17 at 11:59 PM**.

Requirements for the final draft:

* You must include multiple perspectives, perhaps opposing or alternative views.
* You must use at least one of the essays from our class.
* You must use at least three outside sources found only through the RIT Academic Search Elite databases.
* You must include at least two personal interviews to use as evidence.
* You must consider your own relevant experience.
* Your paper must be in MLA format with ALL research used in your paper listed in a Works Cited page at the end of the draft.